



COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY NEWS RELEASE

COUVRETTE ENTERS NO CONTEST PLEA

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City of Salem Commonwealth's Attorney, Tom Bowers, has secured a no contest plea and conviction against Edward Francis Couvrette, a former Salem businessman.

On October 20, Couvrette entered the plea in Salem Circuit Court and was found guilty on three counts of unlawfully and feloniously withholding wages to 14 of his employees at E.F. Couvrette, a manufacturing business that previously operated in Salem.

Couvrette was sentenced to a total of nine years in the state penitentiary on the three felony charges. While all of the prison time was suspended pending good behavior, restitution in excess of \$220,000 has been paid to the Virginia Department of Labor on behalf of the victims. The 14 employees who filed claims with the Department of Labor will be reimbursed for lost wages in the coming weeks.

Couvrette was arrested on September 18, 2015 after a Salem grand jury indicted him on the three felony counts

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